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Yebu language

Yebu (language name: **Yiin Yebu**[3]; also known as **Awak** or **Awok**) is one of the Savanna languages of Kaltungo LGA in Gombe State, northeastern Nigeria.

Yebu	
Awak	
Native to	Kaltungo LGA, Gombe State, eastern Nigeria
Native speakers	(6,000 cited 1995)[1]
Language family	Niger–Congo ▪ Atlantic–Congo ▪ Waja–Kam ▪ Waja ▪ Awak languages ▪ **Yebu**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	awo
Glottolog	awak1250 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/awak1250)[2]

There are five distinct dialects corresponding to each of the original five settlements that had been spoken on the Awak Hill. Yebu is currently spoken in the plains rather than in the speakers' ancestral territory of Awak Hill.[4]

Villages

Yebu villages according to Blench (2019):[3]

Village name	IPA	Hausa/Fulfulde name	Notes
Bwara	ɓʷǎrâ		
Feka	fé:kâ	Jauro Gotel	70% Yebu
Fun	fúùn	Bagaruwa	
Kewur	kʲèwúr		
Kungge	kùjèŋí		
Kuran	kūrân		
Kwabilakɛ	kʷàplākē		
Momidi	mòmīdī		
Soblong	sòlóŋ		
Tangga	tàŋgá		
Wuyaka	ɓᵘāáká	Sabon Layi	
Yeri-Tayo	tà:jó jèrí		
Cwelangi	ʧʷélàŋí		
Yebo	jēbǒ		

Fulani villages that have Yebu chiefs are Tɔrɛ, Langgarɛ, and Lugayidi.[3]

Hausa villages that have Yebu chiefs are Daura, Dundaye, Salifawa, Dogon Ruwa (mixed Hausa and Yebu village), Garin Bako, Garin Korau, and Garin Barau.[3]

Other languages spoken in the area are Waja, Kamo, Tangale, and Tula.[3]

Phonology

Yebu exhibits vowel length contrast, although it is uncommon in the language. It also has consonant gemination. There are six phonetic tones derived from three phonetic tone heights:[3]

- High ˊ
- Mid ˉ
- Low ˋ
- Rising Low-High ˇ
- Rising Mid-High ˇ
- Falling High-Low ˆ

References

1. Yebu (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/awo/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Awak" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/awak1250). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Blench, Roger. 2019. *Aspects of the phonology and grammar of the Yebu (Awak) language in Nigeria (https://www.academia.edu/41503209/Aspects_of_the_phonology_and_grammar_of_the_Yebu_Awak_language_in_Nigeria)*.
4. Kleinewillinghöfer, Ulrich. 2014. The languages of the Tula – Waja Group (https://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/fb07-adamawa/adamawa-languages/tula-waja-group/the-languages-of-the-tula-waja-group/). Adamawa Languages Project.

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